

IN THE MATTER OF	*	BEFORE THE MARYLAND
KRISTIN COUSIN,	*	STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
LCPC/LCADC	*	COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS
RESPONDENT	*	
LICENSE NO.: LC5206/LCA2160	*	Case NO.: 2016-001
* * * * * *		* * * * * *

PRE-CHARGE CONSENT ORDER OF REPRIMAND

In January 2016, the Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the “Board”) received a complaint against the Respondent, Kristin Cousin, LC5206 and LCA2160. The Board investigated the allegations in the complaint. Based on its investigation, the Board voted to offer a Pre-Charge Consent Order to the Respondent, in lieu of issuing Charges for violations of the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act (the “Act”), codified at Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. (“Health Occ.”) §§ 17-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2017 Supp.), and the regulations adopted by the Board, at Md. Code Regs. (“COMAR”) §§ 10.58.01 *et seq.* The Board’s investigation revealed that the Respondent appears to have violated the following provisions of the Act and COMAR:

Health Occ. § 17-509. Denial, probation, suspension, or revocation of certificate applicant or holder.

- (8) Violates the code of ethics adopted by the Board;
- (13) Violates any rule of regulation adopted by the Board; and
- (16) Commits an act of immoral or unprofessional conduct in the practice of clinical or nonclinical counseling or therapy;

COMAR 10.58.03. Code of Ethics.

.04 Ethical Responsibility.

A. A counselor shall:

(1) Consult with other counselors or other relevant professionals regarding questions related to ethical obligations or professional practice;

...

.05 Counseling Relationship.

B. Dual Relationships.

(1) A counselor shall:

(a) Avoid dual relationships with clients;

The Board offered the Respondent an opportunity to settle this matter rather than pursuing formal charges against the Respondent. As a result of that offer, the Respondent and the Board agreed to the following Consent Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board finds the following facts.

Background

1. On or about April 23, 2013, the Respondent was initially licensed to practice as a licensed clinical professional counselor ("LCPC") in the State of Maryland under license number 5206. The Respondent placed her LCPC license on inactive status on or about February 1, 2019.
2. On or about June 15, 2015, the Respondent was initially licensed to practice as a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor ("LCADC") in the State of Maryland under license number 2160. The Respondent placed her LCADC license on inactive status on or about January 31, 2019.

3. At all times relevant, the Respondent was employed as an alcohol drug counselor/aftercare coordinator at Facility A, an alcohol and drug treatment facility located in Maryland.

Complaint

4. On or about January 11, 2016, the Board received a complaint from the clinical director at Facility A. The complaint alleged that the Respondent was romantically involved with a former client and that the Respondent's former client appeared to have the same home address as the Respondent.

Investigation

5. The Board's investigation revealed that the incident was initially investigated by the facility and the human resources department.
6. The Respondent admitted that she resided with the former client; that they started a romantic relationship soon after the former client's discharge from the facility; and that the relationship was ongoing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board finds as a matter of law that the Respondent's conduct, as described above, constitutes a violation of §17-509 (8), (13) and (16) and COMAR 10.58.03.04 and .05.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby by a majority of the Board members considering this case:

ORDERED that that the Respondent is hereby REPRIMANDED; and it is further

ORDERED that the Board may, in its discretion, place terms and conditions on the

~~Respondent's license upon reactivation or reinstatement; and it is further~~

ORDERED that this Pre-Charge Consent Order of Reprimand is a public document,

pursuant to Md. Gen. Prov. Code Ann. §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2019 Repl. Vol.) and is

reportable to any entity to which the Board is obligated to report.

5/15/20
Date

Risa Ganel / CG
Risa, Ganel, MS, LCMFT
Chair
Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors
and Therapists

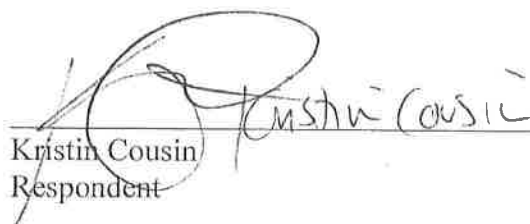
CONSENT

I, Kristin Cousin, acknowledge that I have had been made aware of my right to consult with counsel before signing this document. By this Consent, I accept a Reprimand in lieu of a formal evidentiary hearing on violations of the Act and COMAR contained in this Consent Order.

~~I acknowledge the validity of this Consent Order as if entered into after the~~ conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my own behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections as provided by law. I waive any rights I may have had to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the Board to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Consent Order. I also affirm that I waive my right to appeal any adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed any such hearing.

I sign this Consent Order after having had an opportunity to consult with counsel, without reservation, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms of this Consent Order. I voluntarily sign this Consent Order and I understand its meaning and effect.

4/30/2020
Date

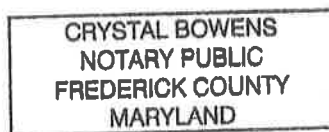

Kristin Cousin
Respondent

NOTARY

STATE OF _____
CITY/COUNTY OF: _____

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 30 day of April 2020,
before me, a Notary Public of the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared Kristin
~~Cousin~~ and gave oath in due form of law that the foregoing Consent Order was her
voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS, my hand and Notary Seal.



Notary Public

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Crystal Bowens".

My commission expires: 11/14/2023